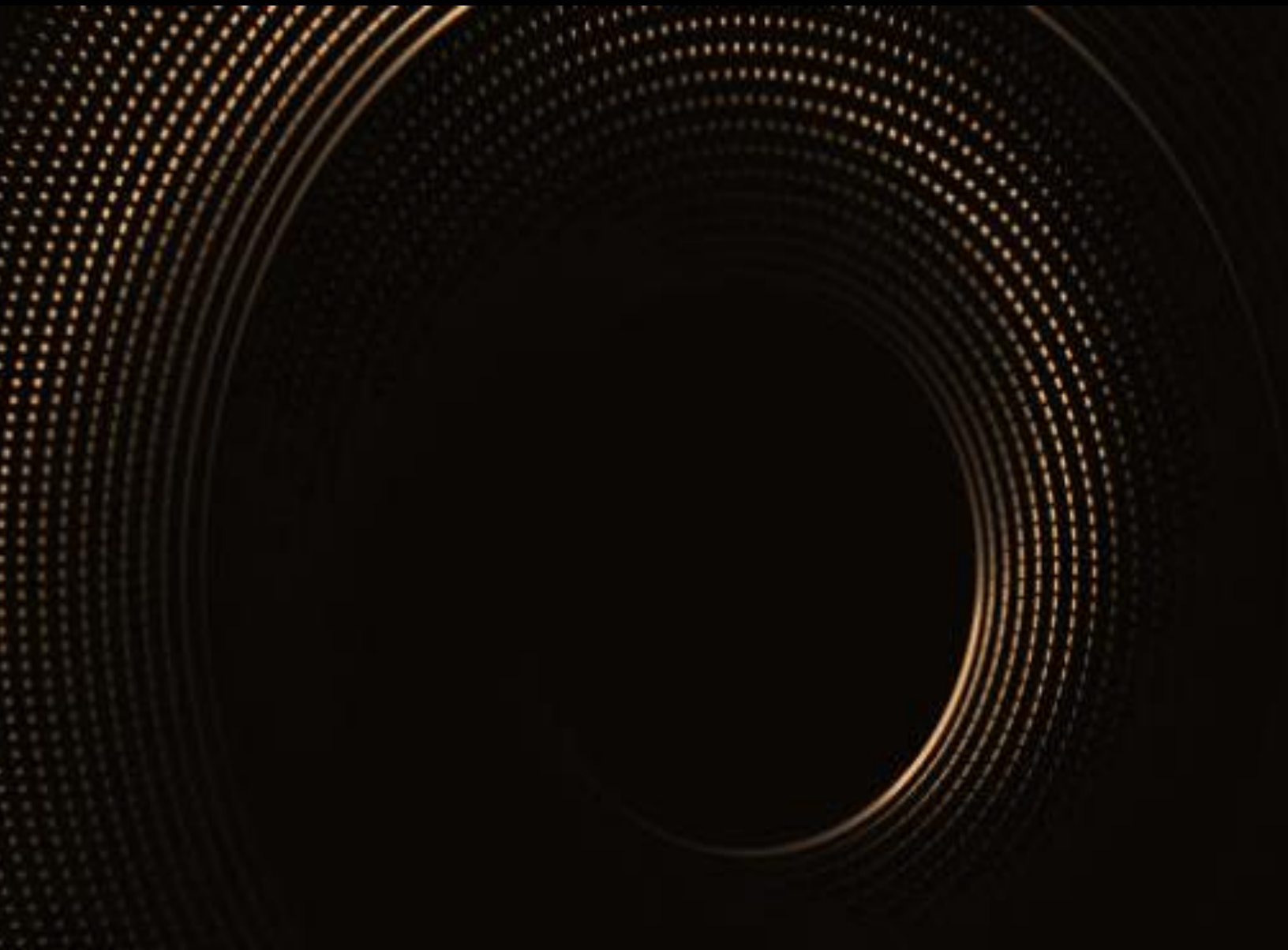


July 31

Ecclesiasticus 4:27

“Under a Fool”



**Make not thyself an underling
to a foolish man, neither accept the
person of the mighty.**

The first part of this verse
is logical, reasonable, and
helpful advice—wherever
one has a choice.

Of course there are times and
situations where one does not
have any say in the matter,
but where there is a choice,
one should avoid voluntarily

being subjected to, or
“under”, a foolish person.

Whether it's a boss, a
minister, an elected official,
a potential spouse, or any
person who would or could
have some degree of power
over your life, do not
intentionally put a foolish
person in such positions
“over” yourself.

Don't CHOOSE a fool to

rule—in any capacity.

Again, this is advice for occasions whereby you can decide for yourself who has the ability to dictate some outcome of your life.

Sometimes, however, you just don't have any input or decision-making leeway in situations. This passage does not address that. It only warns to make good choices

when you have the
opportunity.

An example of following this advice is when a college student is given the opportunity to select his or her courses and professors. If the student wants to take a particular class, but knows the only instructor teaching it has a bad reputation (such as constantly joking in class or

being unfair in grading), the student may decide to wait until the next semester or later to take the course from a better professor. He or she would not want to put that personality or low skill level “over” themselves. The student would avoid putting themselves “under” the authority of such “foolish” or even potentially harmful person.

Also, this passage urges to not accept everything from a person just because he or she is in a high position. It's saying not to idolize powerful people. Some people place wealthy or so-called "successful" people on pedestals while ignoring their bad behavior or destructive actions simply because they are socially or monetarily powerful.

Don't trust or accept a person automatically just because he or she has status, wealth, or a powerful position. General respect can be shown, but there should be a limit to how much a person "bows down", in attitude or behavior, to another. If reverence becomes worship of a person, it's idolatry.

So, we have in this verse

admonitions against misappropriations of admiration. We are told to not put someone over ourselves (or hold in high regard) who does not warrant our reverence at all. On the other side of the pendulum, we are told not to put even a worthy person up too high to the degree of causing our own harm.



ONE A DAY

2nd Edition **July**

SCRIPTURE
1611KJV

